REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18. The Applicant requests

reconsideration of claims 1-18 in view of the following remarks. No new claims are presently

added. Thus, claims 1-18 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-7 and 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over

Anderson et al., *Workflow Interoperability – Enabling E-Commerce*, April 1, 1999,

www.wfmc.org (hereinafter "Anderson") in view of Work Group 1, *Workflow Management*

Coalition Interface: Process Definition Interchange Process Model, Document Number

WfMC TC-1016-P, July 15, 1998 (hereinafter "Work Group"). Claims 8-10 and 18 were

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Anderson in view of ICL

Enterprises, *A Common Object Model Discussion Paper*, Document Number WfMC-TC-

1022, January 1998 (hereinafter ICL).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) as being obvious over Anderson in view of Work Group. Specifically, with

regard to the independent claims the Examiner stated:

Regarding claim 1

Anderson et al. teaches,

- receiving a description of a business-to-business interaction standard (page 1, last paragraph, "this definition indicates the most...between organizations);

- converting the description of business-to-business interaction standard to a structured representation of the business-to-business interaction standard (page 2, 2nd paragraph, "business processes...they interoperate);

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- automatically generating at least one process template based on the structured representation of the business-to-business interaction standard (page 2, 1st paragraph, "the implementation of the value chain...in operation"). *Anderson et al. teaches,* doesn't teach explicitly using the process template to design a workflow. However *Work Group 1,* teaches (figure 2-1, page 7, item 2.1, 2nd paragraph, "it is the process definition...operation of the process"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to generate template and use in workflow. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine process description with process template in business-to-business environment along with standard to achieve efficiency and enhancing workflow management.

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Regarding claims 11 and 12

Anderson et al. teaches,

- receiving a high-level process definition (page 1, last paragraph, "this definition indicates the most...between organizations);

- converting the high-level process definition into a structured data and flow (page 2, 2nd paragraph, "business processes...they interoperate);

   - automatically extracting at least one business-to-business (B2B) interaction point (page 2, 1st paragraph, "the implementation of value chain...in operation"). *Anderson et al. teaches,* doesn't teach explicitly generating a business-to-business (B2B) service template for the extracted interaction point. However *Work Group 1,* teaches (figure 2-1, page 7, item 2.1, 2nd paragraph, "it is the process definition...operation of the process"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to generate template and use in workflow. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine process description with process template in business-to-business environment along with standard to achieve efficiency and enhancing workflow management.

Regarding claim 17

Anderson et al. teaches,

> a structured process definition generator for receiving a
> description of a business-to-business interaction standard
> and responsive thereto for generating a structured business-
> to-business process definition (page 1, 2nd paragraph, "this
> definition indicates...between organization");

a process template generator for automatically generating a
business-to-business process template based on a structured
business-to-business process definition (page 2, 1st
paragraph, "the implementation of value chain...in
operation"); and

Anderson et al teaches, doesn't teach explicitly a process
template repository for storing the business-to-business process
templates. However *Work Group I,* teaches (figure 2-1, page 7,
item 2.1, 2nd paragraph, "it is the process definition...operation
of the process"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a
person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention
was made to process template repository and use in workflow.
The modification would have been obvious because one of
ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine
process description with process template in business-to-
business environment along with standard design work flow in
E environment and provide uniformity with work flow.

Office Action, pages 2-6.

The Examiner also rejected claims 8-10 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

obvious over Anderson in view of ICL. Specifically, the Examiner stated:

Regarding claims 8 and 18

Anderson et al. teaches,

> Workflow process and storing the process templates
> into a process template repository template in B2B environment
> and wherein the process templates are accessible to a workflow
> designer (page 2, 1st paragraph, "the implementation...in
> operation, 2nd paragraph, 'business process that...they
> interoperate"). *Anderson et al* does not teach explicitly storing
> the service templates into a service template repository and
> wherein the service templates are accessible to a workflow

designer. However, ACOMDP teaches, pages 14-15, see diagram on page 15, 1st paragraph, "various detailed component methods can be...above model"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate process repository and service repository. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine different kind of repositories in the process and services for faster and distributed workflow.

Regarding claim 9

ACOMPD *teaches,*

Retrieving a process template from the process template repository and adding at least one local service to the process template (see page 13, see diagram, item 5.2, 1st paragraph, additionally the WAPI interface...in the meta model").

Regarding claim 10

ACOMPD *teaches,*

Designing a process that includes a plurality of local services (page 13, see diagram, last paragraph, certain important characteristics...") and

Adding at least one interaction point service to the process (see page 14, see diagram, 1st paragraph, "sequential work item..." see item 5.3, "the additional component level...workflow manager functions").

Office Action, pages 7-8.

The burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness falls on the Examiner. *Ex parte Wolters and Kuypers*, 214 U.S.P.Q. 735 (P.T.O. Bd. App. 1979). Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital*, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 U.S.P.Q. 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Accordingly, to establish a *prima facie* case, the Examiner must not only show that the combination includes *all* of the claimed elements, but also a convincing line of reason as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would have found the claimed invention to have been

obvious in light of the teachings of the references. *Ex parte Clapp*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 972 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985). When prior art references require a selected combination to render obvious a subsequent invention, there must be some reason for the combination other than the hindsight gained from the invention itself, i.e., something in the prior art as a whole must suggest the desirability, and thus the obviousness, of making the combination. *Uniroyal Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp.*, 837 F.2d 1044, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1434 (Fed. Cir. 1988). One cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Moreover, the Examiner must provide *objective evidence*, rather than subjective belief and unknown authority, of the requisite motivation or suggestion to combine or modify the cited references. *In re Lee*, 61 U.S.P.Q.2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

Turning to the claims, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "*receiving* a *description* of a business-to-business interaction standard ... *converting* the description ... to a *structured representation* of the business-to-business interaction standard ... automatically *generating* at least one *process template* based on the structured representation ... [and] using the process template to design a workflow." (Emphasis added).

The Applicant asserts that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the cited references fail to disclose each and every feature recited in claim 1. For example, in the Office Action, the Examiner submitted that Anderson teaches "receiving a description of a business-to-business interaction standard. *See* Office Action, page 2. However, the Applicant asserts that the cited portion of Anderson fails to even mention a *business-to-business interaction standard*. To emphasize this deficiency, the cited portion of Anderson is set forth below:

This definition indicates that most commercial computing falls within the definition of E-Commerce. E-Commerce includes both the digital transformation of recognizable commercial activities and the creation of new business rules and roles for participants in emerging arenas. The delivery of business through E-Commerce involves the deployment of business processes for which workflow is an obvious supporting technology. If we look again at the definition above, we can see that it is likely that the delivery of goods and services through E-Commerce will necessarily involve the operation of business processes that run across and between organizations.

Anderson, page 1, last paragraph.

Clearly, Anderson does not teach the presently recited business-to-business interaction standard, much less receiving a description of such a standard. Indeed, the Applicant stresses that merely stating that E-commerce will involve business processes that run across and between organizations is *not* equivalent to "*receiving* a *description* of a *business-to-business interaction standard*," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added).

Additionally, Anderson fails to disclose "*converting* the description of business-to-business interaction standard to a *structured representation* of the business-to-business interaction standard," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added). To emphasize this deficiency, the portion of Anderson cited by the Examiner as teaching this feature is set forth fully below:

Business processes that operate within, across or between organizations in order to implement value chains that can be used to deliver E-Commerce transactions may be implemented using a set of workflow definitions that have been created to support discrete segments of the overall process. This scenario poses the question of how to avoid creating islands of automation in the operation of an end to end business process. The answer to this problem is workflow interoperability – the enabling of different workflow products to "*talk to each other*" by exchanging messages that effect process interoperation and integration to drive and manage the operation of the value chain. Workflow interoperability enables the owner of the value chain to have greater visibility and

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control over its performance and participants within the value
chain benefit from flexibility, and improved control and
visibility over the performance of the processes they operate
and the processes with which they interoperate.

Anderson, page 2, second paragraph (emphasis in original).

Applicant stresses that interoperability (or enabling workflow products to "talk to

each other") is not equivalent to *converting* the description of a business-to-business

interaction standard to a *structured representation* of the business-to-business interaction

standard. Indeed, according to Applicant's best understanding, Anderson merely teaches

facilitating communication between workflow products.

Additionally, Anderson fails to disclose "automatically generating at least one process

template based on the structured representation of the business-to-business interaction

standard." Indeed, Applicant finds no disclosure whatsoever of a *process template* in the

cited portion of Anderson. To emphasize this deficiency, the portion of Anderson cited by

the Examiner as teaching this feature is set forth fully below:

> The implementation of value chains that run across and
> between organizations is not, in itself, a new idea. Electronic
> Document Interchange (EDI) has provided a reliable messaging
> regime to support inter-trading between consenting
> organizations for some time. Inter-trading is effected through
> the exchange of messages containing standard business objects
> (documents such as invoices, purchase orders or electronic
> funds) which are treated as input to the receiving organization's
> IT systems. EDI regimes are well suited to support of secure,
> high volume, transactional inter-trading applications.
> Experience has however, shown them to be expensive to set up
> and somewhat inflexible once in operation.

Anderson, page 2, first paragraph.

Applicant stresses that sending business objects (e.g., invoices, purchase orders or electronic funds) from one business to another is not equivalent to *generating* a *process template* based on the structured representation of a business-to-business interaction standard. Exchanging business objects is clearly not equivalent to *generating* anything, much less generating a *process template*. Indeed, Applicant can not even find a mention of a template in the cited portion of the reference.

The Examiner admits that Anderson is deficient with respect to the recitation in claim 1 of "using the process template to design a work flow" and attempts to remedy the deficiency by citing to Work Group. *See* Office Action, page 3. However, Applicant asserts that Work Group fails to remedy the deficiencies of Anderson with respect to this feature and with respect to all of the other features discussed above. Indeed, to emphasize the deficiencies of Work Group, the portion of Work Group cited by the Examiner is set forth fully below:

> It is the process definition which is interpreted by the workflow engine, acting as a template for the creation and control of instances of that process during process enactment. The process definition may contain references to sub-processes, separately defined, which make up part of the overall process definition. A loose distinction is sometimes drawn between production workflow, in which most of the procedural rules (i.e. elements of the process definition) are defined in advance, and ad-hoc workflow, in which the procedural rules may be created or modified during the operation of the process.

Work Group, page 7, second paragraph.

Primarily, Applicant stresses that a mere description of a process definition and a template used for creation and control of instances is insufficient to remedy the deficiencies in Anderson discussed above. Further, Applicant can discern no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine Anderson and Work Group as suggested by the

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Examiner. Specifically, it is unclear why one of ordinary skill in the art would combine sending business objects (e.g., invoices), as described by Anderson, with a process definition, as described by Work Group.

For the reasons set fort above, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of independent claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom. Additionally, the Applicant requests an indication of allowance for claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom. Further, in as much as the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 11 and 17 are essentially identical to the Examiner's rejection of independent claim 1, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of independent claims 11 and 17 and the claims depending therefrom. Additionally, Applicant requests an indication of allowance for claims 11 and 17 and the claims depending therefrom.
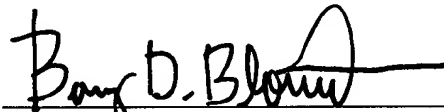
Turning to the rejection of claims 8-10 and 18. The Applicant asserts that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the cited references fail to disclose each and every feature recited in dependent claims 1 and 17. As discussed in detail above, the Anderson reference is deficient with respect to independent claims 1 and 17 from which claims 8-10 and 18 depend, respectively. Further, ICL does not remedy these deficiencies. Indeed, the Examiner merely cited ICL for its alleged teachings relating to storing service templates in a repository that is accessible to a workflow designer, retrieving process templates from the repository, designing a process that includes a plurality of local service, and adding at least one interaction point service to the process. *See* Office Action, pages 7-8.

In view of their dependence from allowable base claims and in view of the deficiencies in the references cited by the Examiner, as set forth above, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 8-10 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Further, Applicant requests that the Examiner provide an indication of allowance for claims 8-10 and 18.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-18. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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